

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, May 25, 1898, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Wednesday, May 25, 1898. My dear Alec:

No letter from you today and I miss them very much. Please write to me if only a few lines.

Mr. Langley called here this afternoon and asked if I were sure that he would not inconvenience you if he were to drop in on you for a few days. I said I had already written you and that I was sure you would be glad to have him. But he can't go all day without food, and do try and see that his food is good. You will have to ask Mr. McCurdy to let Mr. Langley have his room. I don't quite like to have him go down those steps to the other spare rooms.

Please have the visitors list kept up. I am in earnest about this as it has been kept so long I don't want it to be neglected now.

I sent you a telegram today. I don't know the news was worth it as far as I can make out. We think the Spanish fleet is at Santiago de Cuba because it can't be found any where else.

Mr. Tottan ran out this afternoon he expects to go in this new call for volunteers. Elsie says that he told her he had applied to pass the examination for the engineer corps and he expected to pass because "unfortunately" he had the pull although there were over 2000 applications. I feel so awfully sorry for him Elsie barely escaped being down right rude, in fact I thought she was wholly so and could not bear to see him standing biting the ends of his moustache while she stood with her back turned square on him talking and laughing

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with Mr. McGee, Miss Wertnego,— anybody. I don't see what he comes for to be treated this way. It hurts me to see a man stand this sort of treatment.

Mamma had quite a lot of little children come out to play in the 2 haycocks. There was already a black dress among the little children caused by the war, at least I suppose Ensign Brockinridge's death was connected with it although antedating the declaration.

The little ones had a good time never-the-less, burying Charlie in the bay. Bobbie almost got lost in it, he is such a bit of a fellow.

Charlie says most emphatically I am glad the President has called out the rest of the volunteers, it is the right thing to do, we must take Porto Rico, the Philippines and a large slice of Spanish territory to indemnify us for this war and we need a lot of men to hold it. Yes — we must hold the land”— A connection of ours has gone or is on his way to Manilla as Captain of volunteers. Paul is in the Mass. Natl. Guards. Tracy is going to Germany — why doesn't he go botanizing in Cuba. Mamma says Uncle Richard won't go abroad because he can't bear to leave the country while the war is on and Mr. Pollock doesn't want to go. Dr. Ker says Baddeck is the very place for your Uncle but they fear he is not strong enough for the journey. He was better this morning.

I am reading my Grandfather Hubbard's letters and like and know him better all the time. In some ways he reminds me of you, but generally he is very like Papa. But I don't think either you or Papa would have written your wives that you thought her picture flattered her.! And I don't quite see how he could venture to suggest to her that she should give her sister the watch her former husband gave her that he might give her another! His ideas of dress are just like yours, he “is accustomed to things good of their kind” and so on almost in Shakespeare's words that you are so fond of quoting. He evidently had to marry; his 3 children's nurse was getting too many for him. The remarks she makes to him which he repeats verbatim to his lady love are something remarkable. One thing I like and that is using one sheet for envelope and letter. It gives the date stamped officially,

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Much love, Yours ever.